

Message Text

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1796

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR USAF AIRCRAFT

REF: A) STATE 89597; B) BERN 1304

1. SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE HAS SLIGHTLY MODIFIED PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT WITH USAF CONCERNING OVERFLIGHTS OF SWITZERLAND BY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN MANNER WHICH SEEMS TO TAKE CARE OF CONCERN RE VERIFICATION PROCEDURES EXPRESSED PARA 2 REFTEL A. REVISED LETTER FROM DR. GULDIMANN, DIRECTOR, AIR OFFICE, TO AIR ATTACHE TRANSMITTED CSAF UNDER DAO MEMORANDUM C164/74/160 DATED 8 MAY, WITH COPY TO INFO ADDRESSEES AND STATE (EUR/CE).

2. PARA 27 RE VERIFICATION PROCEDURES MODIFIED TO READ AS FOLLOWS (IN TRANSLATION): "IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THESE REGULATIONS FUNCTION PROPERLY, THE SWISS AUTHORITIES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO INITIATE APPROPRIATE VERIFYING PROCEDURES, EVEN OUTSIDE OF SWISS TERRITORY. AMERICAN AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO FACILITATE SUCH PROCEDURES." AS NOTED, THERE IS NO LONGER ANY MENTION OF VISITS TO FRANKFURT. FOR VARIETY OF REASONS WE BELIEVE SWISS WOULD PREFER IF AT ALL POSSIBLE REFRAIN FROM ANY PUBLICITY RE OVERFLIGHT PROCEDURES
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BUT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES THEY COULD FEEL COMPELLED

DIVULGE ESSENCE OF PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT. THUS, WE DO NOT FEEL THAT IT IS REALISTIC SEEK SWISS AGREEMENT THAT ENTIRE UNDERSTANDING BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. SHOULD SWISS FEEL NEED "INITIATE APPROPRIATE VERIFYING PROCEDURES, EVEN OUTSIDE OF SWISS TERRITORY," QUESTION OF PUBLICITY WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AT THAT TIME SHOULD SWISS REQUEST AND US ALLOW VISIT TO RHEIN-MAIN.

3. OTHER MODIFICATIONS FROM EARLIER GULDIMANN DRAFT INCLUDE FOLLOWING: A) "WAR MATERIEL" DEFINED IN PARA 11 BY CROSS REFERENCE TO SWISS LAW OF JUNE 30, 1972, AND FEDERAL COUNCIL ORDER OF JAN 10, 1973; B) PARA 21 CLARIFIED TO INDICATE THAT OVERFLIGHT AUTHORIZATIONS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ONE MONTH PERIODS WHILE CLEARANCE REQUESTS MAY CONTINUE TO COVER THREE MONTH PERIODS; AND C) PARA 28 RE TERMINATION RE-DRAFTED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "THE SWISS AUTHORITIES MAY, AT ANY TIME, AND WITHOUT EXPLANATION, ANNUL ALL OR PART OF THE PRESENT REGULATIONS. SUCH A MEASURE WOULD NOTABLY BE TAKEN IN THE CASE OF TENSION OR INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS."

4. WE ASSUME THAT FOREGOING CHANGES ARE ACCEPTABLE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION FROM STATE AND DEFENSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT AIR ATTACHE MAY ADVISE AIR OFFICE OF USAF ACCEPTANCE OF ARRANGEMENT.
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